THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No Bal Bhavan has so far been established in States through funding under the Plan Scheme of "National Bal Bhavan". However, State Governments, Local Bodies, NGOs etc. have themselves established 73 Bal Bhavans which have been granted affiliation by the National Bal Bhavan.

(c) and (d) No Expert Committee has been appointed to evaluate the functioning of State Bal Bhavans. However, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Kaul, former Cabinet Secretary, was constituted in July, 2002, to review the working of the National Bal Bhavan. This Committee submitted its Report in December, 2002.

(e) During the year 2003-2004, Central Government sanctioned Plan Grant amounting to Rs. 1,86,00,000/- and accorded permission for carry forward of unspent balance of Rs. 2,14,20,451/- from the previous year, to National Bal Bhavan, Delhi, against which a sum of Rs. 3,98,22,767/- was utilized by it.

Kannada as a Classical Language

*98. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any delegation from Karnataka submitted a Memorandum seeking classical language status for Kannada language;

(b) if so, the date of its submission; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 22nd September, 2004.

(c) It is under examination.

Schemes for poverty alleviation

†*99. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to empower the poor for reducing poverty;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have worked out any action plan in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) With a view to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have studied upto 9th standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets, the Ministry of urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has been implementing a Centrally sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, through States/ Union Territories, with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), on all India basis, targets to provide 4,00,000 employment opportunities to the urban poor, through setting up of micro/group enterprises and to impart skill training to 5,00,000 persons have been fixed under SJSRY.

Development of tribals in Gujarat

*100. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for tribal development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received proposals from the Government of Gujarat for development of tribal people during 2004-2005 under the Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, details of which along-with the status/action taken thereon are given in the statement.